

# Required Reading

Season's Greetings from all of us at CSF, and a heartfelt thank you!

Newsletter of the Children's Scholarship Fund

giving parents a choice

giving children a chance

Fall 2013

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[www.scholarshipfund.org](http://www.scholarshipfund.org)

[www.csfblog.wordpress.com](http://www.csfblog.wordpress.com)

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*"Thank you is the first and most important thing I would like to say to everyone involved with the Children's Scholarship Fund. I am the mother of Lourdes and Nadia (twins), and both of my daughters attend St. Raymond Elementary School in the Bronx. This program has allowed me to believe that both my daughters will get somewhere and live a better life in the future than they live today. None of this would have been possible without your help. Thank you."*

*– Luz G., CSF Parent*

## CSF Joins NY Rally for Education Tax Credits

Just before Thanksgiving, CSF Scholars were among more than 5,000 schoolchildren, teachers, and political leaders who gathered in Westchester to show their support for the Education Investment Tax Credit legislation currently under consideration in the New York State Legislature. The bill would create an individual and corporate tax credit to help children attending both public and private schools across the state.

Illeannesis Menendez, a former CSF Scholar and current pre-law freshman at Iona College, spoke eloquently to the crowd about how her scholarship made it possible for to attend St. Philip Neri School and then to Aquinas High School, schools where she developed her love of learning. Illeannesis shared the stage with a bipartisan group of political and religious leaders and did the CSF family proud! Several other CSF families taped moving testimonial interviews that were shown at the rally too.

If enacted, this bill would potentially allow CSF and our Buffalo partner, the BISON Children's



CSF alum and rally speaker Illeannesis Mendendez (center) with her mother, Illian, and younger sister, Petra.

Scholarship Fund, to serve significantly more children each year, meeting the demands of thousands more parents who want to send their children to private school but simply cannot afford to do so. To learn more about the rally and the bill, please visit [www.investined.org](http://www.investined.org).

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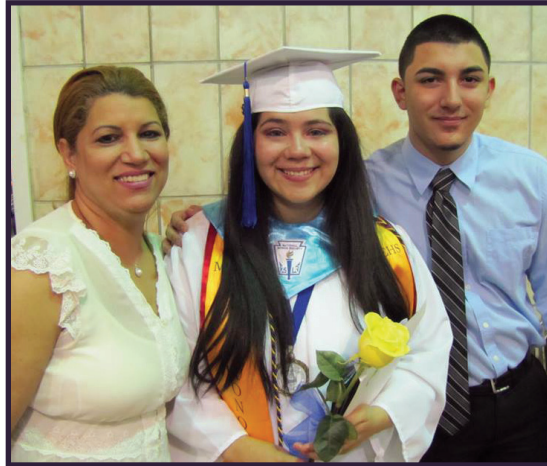
*CSF Co-Founder*

*In Memoriam*

*1946-2005*

## CSF Alumni Report High School Grad Rates

Over the summer, we surveyed CSF New York alumni who graduated 8th grade in 2009 and were on track to graduate high school in 2013.



*CSF alum Janice Lopez graduated high school in June and is now a freshman at Cornell University.*

We found that **95.4 percent graduated from high school on time this June**. And of those who graduated, **90 percent are now enrolled in college**.

The remaining high school graduates entered the workforce (1.75 percent) or the military (1.3 percent) or did not report their plans (6.5 percent).

Colleges where CSF New York alumni are now enrolled include: Boston College; Columbia University; Cornell University; Fordham University; Iona College; John Jay College; New York University; Penn State University, and Rutgers University.

Congratulations to the CSF High School Class of 2013! ●

## CSF Earns Top Ratings

We are happy to announce that CSF has been honored with a prestigious 2013 Top-Rated Award by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews about nonprofit organizations.

The Top-Rated Award is earned by receiving a large number of positive reviews that CSF received from volunteers, donors, and families we serve. For example, one CSF parent wrote, "There is no greater gift that anybody can give to a child than a good education and that is what this organization is doing for my family."



You can read all the reviews of CSF on the GreatNonprofits website here: [bit.ly/CSFgreatnonprofits](http://bit.ly/CSFgreatnonprofits). ●

*The Children's Scholarship Fund aims to maximize educational opportunity for all children: for those in need by offering tuition assistance in grades K-8 for alternatives to faltering conventional schools, and for all children by supporting and cultivating education reform and parental choice efforts.*

### 2013-14 at a glance

**27,650+**

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED**

**\$43.2M**

**TOTAL  
INVESTMENT**

Since inception in 1998, CSF has changed the lives of almost **139,000 children** for the better with scholarships worth **\$568 million**.



# CSF Around the Nation

## Buffalo



Fifth-grader Zachary MacKinnon addressed the audience at the BISON Children's Scholarship Fund's annual luncheon in Buffalo this fall.

## Toledo



CSF's Toledo partner, Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund (NOSF), held its Raise the Cap event in August at Toledo's Fifth Third Field. Dayna Neely (left) and her sons, Dalwin and Je'fon, both NOSF Scholars, were among the attendees, along with Muddy, the Toledo Mud Hens' mascot.

## Memphis



At the Memphis Opportunity Scholarship Trust (MOST) Classic Golf Tournament this fall (l-r): Founder George Cates; Board Chair Bob Solmson; Bill Vaughan; Board Member Tom Whitman, and Executive Director Mandy Rough.

## Baltimore



This fall, CSF Baltimore co-hosted the Baltimore NextGen Investing Event with Southwest Baltimore Charter School and KIPP: Baltimore. The event featured investing insights from (l-r): John W. Rogers, Jr. of Ariel Investments; William H. Müller of LMM, Inc.; Henry L. Ellenbogen of T. Rowe Price Group, and J. David Schuster of Brown Advisory.

## New York



CSF's Young Leaders enjoyed a trip to the U.S. Open with CSF Scholars just before the beginning of the school year.

## New Jersey



Former Tri-County Scholarship Fund Scholar and Montclair State senior Teciana Ross spoke at the group's recent annual dinner. Tri-County Scholarship Fund serves children in New Jersey's Morris, Passaic, and Sussex counties.



# CSF Serves Up Fun at Harlem Cooking Workshop

Recently, CSF families in New York spent a perfect fall Saturday exercising and learning about healthy eating at a workshop organized by members of CSF President's Council and the New York Junior League (NYJL).

The workshop, which brought together nearly a hundred CSF Scholars and their families, kicked off with group exercises, including relays and crab racing. CSF parents also got some tips on nutrition and healthy eating.

The highlight of the day was helping Chef Darryl Burnette in the kitchen. A CIA graduate who has worked at acclaimed restaurants throughout the city, Chef Darryl taught the children how to make delicious yet healthy dishes, including an avocado caprese salad and chicken quesadillas. Best of

all, the families got to sit down and enjoy the meal together, providing an opportunity to chat and get to know one another.

"It was a pleasure to share and learn new things about healthy cooking and do some exercises with you," said CSF Mom Marcela Grassia, who attended with her three daughters. "Thank you, it was a great day!"

We are extremely grateful to the NYJL, Chef Burnette, and St. Charles Borromeo School for hosting the event. Special thanks also go out to President's Council member Julianne Voll who introduced the NYJL to CSF and President's Council members Sarah Johnson and Elizabeth Bonner for volunteering. ●



*Chef Darryl Burnette (far right) with a group of his CSF sous-chefs for the day.*



*CSF Scholars ready to sample the healthy food they made.*



*Before the cooking lesson, everyone warmed up with some exercise.*



*At the workshop (l-r): CSF staff member Margot Pfohl; NYJL's Brook Christopher; CSF staff member Angelica Zamudio, and Julianne Voll, NYJL volunteer and CSF's President's Council member.*



# NY Tax Credit Rally *cont'd*



More than 5,000 people rallied for education tax credits in New York this November.



Rally speakers including New York State Senators and Assembly Members joined former CSF Scholar Illeanne Menendez on the stage.

## Why Parents Choose Private Schools

A new Friedman Foundation study confirms what CSF and CSF partners have known since we began awarding scholarships: parents, regardless of income, know that education is the key to their children's future success, and they are willing to do whatever is necessary to send their children to the school that best meets their children's needs.

The study reports the top reasons driving parents to choose their children's particular private schools include: better student discipline; better learning environment; smaller class sizes; improved student safety, and more individual attention. You can download the report here: [bit.ly/MoreThanScores](http://bit.ly/MoreThanScores). ●

## CSF in the News: WSJ Letter to the Editor

This August, the *Wall Street Journal* published a letter to the editor by CSF Chairman Mike McCurry and CSF President Darla Romfo in response to an editorial about the late Peter Flanigan's education reform legacy. In their August 16th letter, McCurry and Romfo urged a new generation of leaders to "take up the mantle and make [Flanigan's] dream of a decent education for every American child a reality." ●

## Looking Ahead



*Mark your calendar for Tuesday, January 28th! Only days before the 2014 Super Bowl at Giants Stadium, CSF New York is hosting **Champions for Children**, a cocktail reception at the New York Athletic Club to support scholarships. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Margot Pfohl at [mpfohl@scholarshipfund.org](mailto:mpfohl@scholarshipfund.org). It will be a fun evening and sponsorship opportunities are available.*

# The Last Word:

“No one cares about a child’s education more than a parent. And parents need to be empowered to make those choices regardless of their income, regardless of the means they bring to the table. Their children’s dreams are no less precious than the children of parents of greater means.”

**- NJ Gov. Chris Christie at CSF Philadelphia Student Award Ceremony, June 25th, 2013**



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